



iDMB

A Newsletter for the Employees of the Department of Management and Budget

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Legislative liaison hits ground running

In her first weeks in the Department of Management and Budget, **Monique Pointer** found she had "hit the ground running."

Pointer, who replaced **Sergio Paneque** as the department's legislative liaison, said she was immersed in challenging work from her first day here.

"DMB is very diverse," she said. "The legal issues with leases, purchases and contracts - all of these seem very exciting."

Pointer and Paneque didn't exactly trade places, but they did swap departments.

Paneque accepted a position in the governor's legal division, and Pointer most recently worked as deputy director of legislative affairs in the Governor's Office.

In her role at DMB, Pointer analyzes proposed legislation, researches the legal impact of legislation, and coordinates legal reviews by the attorney general. She works with the budget officer to provide information to legislators and with the public information officer to communicate legislative changes within DMB. She also recommends legislative outreach activities to the DMB Director's Office.

"Monique comes to us well prepared for these activities," said Phyllis Mellon, DMB's chief deputy director. "In addition to her responsibilities in the Governor's Office, she has worked as a law clerk with a local office, a practitioner in a law firm she established, and a legislative policy analyst with the House of Representatives. The relationships she has developed will serve her well in her role with DMB."

Pointer is pleased that her new position enables her to work with the Legislature. As a member of the governor's staff, her work centered on providing background on legislation.

"Here, you dig in, and you know all the players," she said.



Monique Pointer

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News from the Offices



Students from Grand Ledge High School whose art had been on display in the DMB Director's Office were honored at a reception Oct. 21. Standing with some of the art work are **Gayle Madison-Hendy**, Grand Ledge art teacher; **Mitch Irwin**, DMB director; **Ernesto Hernandez**; **Veronica Villarreal**; **Benjamin Deyamond**; **Michelle Cavanagh**; **Samantha Smigelski**; **Rich Pochert**, Grand Ledge High School principal; **Maia Hausler**; and **Phyllis Mellon**, DMB chief deputy director. Students **Mallory VanEpps** and **Jena Morr** were unable to attend.



Web links help employees save

New partnerships and links on the Department of Management and Budget Web site are boosting savings opportunities for state employees.

Recently, DMB partnered with Boise Cascade to create a purchasing program that offers state employees a 30 percent discount on catalog items, excluding office furniture. Employees may select items from more than 1,000 pages of products. Orders will be shipped free via UPS and delivered directly to employees' home, with next-day service for most locations. Office deliveries are not available.

The Department of Information Technology and DMB negotiated contracts for computer and cellular purchases that benefit employees as well. Links to employee purchasing resources are available at www.michigan.gov/doingbusiness. Click on the "Employee Savings Program" quick link on the upper right of the page.

Savings opportunities include:

- Boise - save 30 percent on products, excluding furniture
- Dell Computers - save 5 to 10 percent of the total purchase
- Cingular - save 10 percent on all plans
- Alltel - save 10 percent off published retail rates for all packages and plans
- Nextel - save 27 percent on equipment and 10 percent on plans

News from the Offices



Erica Waltmire, sporting a Spartan S, and Marsha Quebbeman, modeling maize and blue, engaged in some friendly competition during an MSU-U of M tailgate luncheon to collect food and funds for Harvest Gathering. Waltmire weighed in donations for the event, which was held for DMB employees in the Lewis Cass Building. Totals from across the department have not yet been tallied. Final numbers will be printed in an upcoming issue of iDMB.

Liaison joins DMB staff

(Continued from page 1)

Pointer graduated from Cooley Law School and earned her undergraduate degree from Michigan State University. She and her husband, Brian, live in Lansing. In her spare time, she is active in her church and serves as a mentor to a ninth-grade student. She also said she enjoys doing "just about anything athletic."

Maybe that's what prepared Pointer to "hit the ground running" from her first day at DMB.

Eklund earns spot near top of class



When he graduates from Central Michigan University next month, **Jeff Eklund** will be part of a select group. With a grade point average of 3.96, the DMB student assistant will graduate among the top students in his class.

Eklund, who has worked for DMB since 1999, is completing his business degree with a major in accounting. He has been circulating résumés, seeking a job as an auditor.

Since June, Eklund has worked with the Audit Services Bureau, assisting staff with audits and other projects.

He said his work with the auditors has involved reviewing contracts and processes to ensure that departments are following proper procedures and policies. He said he likes the investigative process of auditing, describing it as "kind of like solving a mystery."

Before working in audit services, Eklund was a student assistant in the facilities area. He became a familiar face among employees in the Cass, Treasury and Lottery buildings, where he helped with building maintenance.

His colleagues in DMB aren't the least bit surprised that Eklund is finishing college at the top of his class. That's because he has been tops with them for quite a while.

Living the Values

News from the Offices

DMB Director Mitch Irwin offers details of a program that will offer resources to help property owners and governmental units remove trees damaged by the emerald ash borer.



DMB partnership reduces cost of removing dead, dying trees

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm joined the Department of Management and Budget and the Michigan Department of Agriculture to announce a plan to significantly lower the cost homeowners and communities must bear to remove dead and dying landscape trees caused by the exotic pest emerald ash borer. By using DMB's contract system to pool demand and generate lower prices, communities and homeowners in Michigan's 13-county EAB quarantined area should receive economic relief.

The initiative was unveiled at an EAB-infested park in the city of Wayne by the governor's EAB Policy Director Patricia Lockwood, MDA Director Dan Wyant and DMB Director Mitch Irwin.

"This invasive pest has had a devastating impact in Michigan as well as on individual homeowners and communities who are facing tremendous tree removal costs," Granholm said. "This innovative program offers those most impacted by EAB a much-needed and affordable avenue for removing these trees."

Under the plan, the state will be a facilitator for local communities that want to enter into a contract for tree removal. By establishing standard pricing, the state expects the contracts to provide homeowners and communities with a more affordable rate for complete landscape tree removal. Complete removal includes cutting the tree down, grinding the stump, and disposing of all tree materials safely and properly. The state contract will apply to the removal of all types of trees - not just ash.

"This program shows that with a little ingenuity and a lot of collaboration, we can collectively cut costs while better serving the needs of our citizens," Irwin said. "The state looks forward to partnering with community leaders to make this effort a success."

The voluntary program will be available to the county, township, city and village governments in the following counties: Genesee, Ingham, Jackson, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Shiawassee, Washtenaw and Wayne.

For more information on the program or on the insect, visit www.michigan.gov/mda and click on "Emerald Ash Borer" in the spotlight section or www.emeraldashborer.info.

News from the Offices

DMB key to center's construction

A new facility to help prevent the spread of diseases that affect humans and animals has been completed at Michigan State University thanks, in part, to staff from the Department of Management and Budget.

The Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health consolidates laboratories, offices and classrooms that previously had been scattered among several campus buildings. The center provides state-of-the-art facilities for accurate diagnostic tests to determine the presence of diseases such as bovine tuberculosis, West Nile virus and chronic wasting disease. It houses laboratories and equipment for pathology functions and necropsy as well as staff and support offices and administrative areas.

In addition to their design and construction responsibilities, DMB staff administered the

project budget. The process began in spring 2000 with facility design, and construction took place in a number of phases, each with specific milestones. Completion of the project was marked with a dedication ceremony in September.

"A laboratory project of this type, size and complexity had not been constructed within our state border before," said **Dave Sproul**, DMB Design and Construction project manager. "Our team accomplished these challenges by working together through numerous planning workshops, construction activities and design review meetings."

The diagnostic center works in collaboration with the state's departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the farming community and private veterinarians in an effort to keep animals and humans free of infectious diseases. The DMB staff provided a building design that met the space needs of these diverse groups, maintained their schedule and controlled costs.

"I am most proud of the way all major stakeholders worked together to make this a very successful project," Sproul said. "The strengths and experience of the Design and Construction staff members came together to form a beneficial partnering atmosphere."

The new facility is located on the corner of Forest and Beaumont roads south of MSU's main campus. Originally known as the Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory, the center was founded in the 1970s to respond to an incident in which the fire-retardant chemical PBB was accidentally introduced into the state's food chain.



State of Michigan and Michigan State University dignitaries gathered Sept. 30 to dedicate the new Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health. Participants included **Steven Webster**, MSU vice president for governmental affairs; **Dave Sproul**, DMB project manager; **Okey Eneli**, DMB Office of Facilities director; **Lou Anna K. Simon**, MSU president designate; **John D. Cherry**, lieutenant governor; **Carol Schulz**, DMB account specialist; and **Mitch Irwin**, DMB director. Not shown is **Deborah Roberts**, State Building Authority manager.

News from the Offices

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Home drills help families prepare for fires

Home fires can spread very quickly. In order to be safe, it's important that your family is able to exit your home quickly and safely.

Practice your home fire escape plan at least twice a year and make the drill as realistic as possible. Allow your children to participate in your family's escape planning. Practice with a daytime fire drill and follow up with a drill at night when your family is sleeping. The objective is to practice, not to frighten. So telling children before they go to bed that there will be a drill can just be as effective as a surprise drill.

Your drill will help you determine if children and others can readily awaken to the sound of the smoke alarm. If they sleep through the noise, make sure someone is assigned to awaken them, both as part of the drill and in an emergency.

If your home has two floors, every family member (including children) must be able to escape from the second floor rooms.

Escape ladders. Escape ladders are essential for homes that are two stories or taller. Review the manufacturer's instructions carefully so you'll be able to use a safety ladder in an emergency.

Escape ladders can be placed in or near windows to provide an additional escape route. Practice setting up the ladder from a first floor window to make sure you can use it correctly and quickly. Children should only practice with an adult and only from a first-story window. Store the ladder near the window in an easily accessible location. You don't want to have to search for it during a fire.

Escape Route. Always choose the safest escape route - the one with the least amount of smoke and heat - and be prepared to escape through toxic smoke if necessary.

As part of your family fire drill, everyone should practice crawling on hands and knees 1 to 2 feet above the ground. By keeping your head low, you'll be able to breathe the "good" air that's closer to the floor.

It's important to crawl on your hands and knees, not your bellies, because some poisons produced by smoke are heavier than air and settle to the floor.

Closing doors on your way out slows the spread of fire and gives you more time to safely escape.

In some cases, smoke or fire may prevent you from exiting your home or apartment building. To prepare for an emergency like this, practice "sealing yourself in for safety" as part of your home fire escape plan. Close all doors between you and the fire. Use duct tape or towels to seal the door cracks and cover air vents to keep out smoke. If possible, open your windows at the top and bottom to let in fresh air.